

of debate and one motion to recommit if applicable. Testimony was heard from Representative Price of North Carolina.

FIRE GRANTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

Committee on Science and Technology: Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation approved for full Committee action, as amended, H.R. 3791, Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2009.

SMALL BUSINESSES—INCREASING ACCESS TO CAPITAL

Committee on Small Business: Held a hearing entitled "Increasing Access to Capital for Small Businesses." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

HIGH-SPEED RAIL

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials held a hearing on High-Speed Rail in the United States: Opportunities and Challenges. Testimony was heard from Representative Tiberi; Joseph C. Szabo, Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation; Susan Fleming, Director, GAO; Thomas Carper, Chairman of the Board, National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak); and public witnesses.

VA—UPDATE STATE

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Held a hearing on the Update on the State of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Testimony was heard from Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

BRIEFING—HOT SPOTS

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence and Counterintelligence met in executive session to receive a briefing on Hot Spots. The Subcommittee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

Joint Meetings

PROMOTION OF TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine promoting tolerance and understanding in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) region, focusing on the role of the personal representatives, after receiving testimony from Rabbi Andrew Baker, Personal Representative on Combating Anti-Semitism, Washington, D.C., Adil Akhmetov, Personal Representative on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination Against Muslims, Astana, Kazakhstan, and Mario Mauro, Personal Representative on Com-

bating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, Milan, Italy, all of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1170)

H.R. 3663, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to delay the date on which the accreditation requirement under the Medicare Program applies to suppliers of durable medical equipment that are pharmacies. Signed on October 13, 2009. (Public Law 111-72)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2009

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Erroll G. Southers, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, Patrick Gallagher, of Maryland, to be Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce, and Paul K. Martin, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, and Elizabeth M. Robinson, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, both of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jim R. Esquea, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Ellen Gloninger Murray, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Resources and Technology, and Bryan Hayes Samuels, of Illinois, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, all of the Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs and International Environmental Protection, to hold hearings to examine drought, flooding and refugees, focusing on the impacts of climate change, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Subcommittee on International Operations and Organizations, Human Rights, Democracy and Global Women's Issues, to hold hearings to examine United States international broadcasting into the war zones, focusing on Iraq and Afghanistan, 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine equal health care for equal premiums, focusing on women, 10:30 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine domestic partner benefits, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 448 and H.R. 985, bills to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain